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24 January 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

C O N T E N T S

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2. Nigeria: New military leaders concerned about possible violent repercussions to Prime Minister Balewa's death. (Page 3)

[REDACTED]

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4. Italy: Fanfani calls for radical party and government shakeup. (Page 5)
5. Yemen: Nasir sends Faysal new proposal for breaking deadlocked peace conference. (Page 6)
6. Notes: Uganda; Spain; [REDACTED] (Page 7)

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Nigeria: No disturbances have been reported in the wake of the official confirmation of Prime Minister Balewa's death.

The new military leaders have clearly been concerned about possible violent repercussions. Recognizing that Balewa, alone among the former major civilian leaders, was widely respected in all parts of the country, the Ironsi regime has tried to dissociate itself from his murder. It was announced "with deep regret" and special gestures of respect were tendered by the new authorities both in Lagos and in Kaduna, the capital of Balewa's native Northern Region.

All four regional military governors, who appear to be key figures in the new regime, now have returned to their assigned areas following their consultations with Ironsi and top police leaders in Lagos late last week. The US consul in Kaduna has reported the pending formation there of a new regional cabinet of former top civil servants presided over by the military governor, and this pattern may soon appear in the three southern regions as well.

None of the surviving former federal or regional ministers is known to be under detention at this time, and many of them have reportedly returned to their native villages to wait for the dust to settle.

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Italy: Former Christian Democratic foreign minister Fanfani has called for a radical party and government shake-up following Premier Moro's resignation last Friday.

President Saragat is still expected to name Moro as his first choice to head a newly constituted government. Fanfani, however, reportedly believes his chances for obtaining a greater voice in party affairs are enhanced by the crisis. [He may seek to obtain at least three ministerial posts for himself and his followers in the new cabinet.]

Fanfani's followers are thought to have contributed to last week's negative parliamentary vote on a crucial government school bill. The Christian Democratic Party (CD) has come under heavy attack from the Italian Socialists and Social Democrats for being unable to control its parliamentary deputies. This concern over CD disunity probably prompted Moro's governing partners to ask for his resignation.

[CD party secretary Rumor is reportedly redoubling his efforts to produce some type of superficial unity within his party before discussions regarding personalities and programs of the new government commence. Rumor may threaten his own resignation as party secretary if he does not obtain cooperation from the various party factions.]

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Yemen: Nasir has finally sent Saudi King Faysal a proposal for breaking the deadlock in the Yemen peace conference.

In a personal letter to Faysal, Nasir suggested new terms of reference by which the peace conference, now recessed, would choose a caretaker government. Two proposals--acceptance of the name "Transitional Government of Yemen" and agreement to go forward with evacuation of Egyptian troops by 23 September--would favor the Yemen royalists.

The other two proposals--banishment of the Yemen royal family until after the proposed plebiscite next November and composition of the transitional government on the basis of two-thirds republican to one-third royalist--clearly favor the republicans.

Although Faysal has not answered the 13 January letter, he might decide to accept the proposals, believing that after Egyptian withdrawal, the royalist tribes would win the plebiscite. However, both he and Nasir would still face the formidable job of obtaining Yemeni agreement.

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NOTES

Uganda: [Recent activities of the chief of staff and other northern army officers suggest contingency preparations for seizing power in Uganda. Any such conspiracy in the army, where discipline and morale have deteriorated badly since the failure of its military adventure in the Congo last winter, would be a logical outgrowth of the current political struggle between Prime Minister Obote's northern clique and the more conservative southern leaders. The latter's increasing pressure has forced Obote to moderate some of his more radical policies, but it has aroused traditional tribal fears of southern dominance.]

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